

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00338 261034Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 SP-02 /034 W

-----261042Z 125094 /21

R 250821Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4691

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STADIS //

FOR AF/C DIRECTOR BUCHANAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, RW

SUBJECT: WERTHEIM TEA PROJECT

REF STATE 063392

1. RECOGNIZE YOU ARE SWAMPED WITH SHABA SITUATION AND BEG FORGIVNESS FOR BOTHERING YOU WITH TEA. BUT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION IN ENSURING THAT AF/C GIVES DUE ATTENTION TO HANDLING OF WERTHEIM PROJECT AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO OPIC/WERTHEIM CABLES IT IS ASKED TO CLEAR. I WAS FRANKLY BEWILDERED AT DEPT'S WILLINGNESS TO GO ALONG WITH LATEST (REFTEL), WHICH "REQUESTED" ME--THAT'S PRETTY CLOSE TO AN INSTRUCTION WHEN SIGNED BY VANCE--TO THREATEN MY RWANDAN LUNCHEON GUESTS WITH TATTLING TO PRESIDENT IF THEY REFUSED TO YIELD TO LATEST OPIC/WERTHEIM DEMANDS (PARA TWO). AND THIS AT LUNCHEON CAREFULLY DESIGNED TO MEND DAMAGES AND EASE SUSPICIONS ON ALL SIDES.

2. I HAVE PREVIOUSLY SOUGHT MAKE CLEAR TO DEPT MY PERSONAL BELIEF (A) THAT OPIC AND WERTHEIM DO NOT HAVE OPEN-SHUT CASE AGAINST RWANDANS AND THEIR SUPPOSED "BUREAUCRATIC BUNGLING"; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(B) THAT WORKING-LEVEL GOR REMAINS FUNDAMENTALLY (AND EVEN UNDERSTANDABLY) SUSPICIOUS OF WERTHEIM AND HIS PROJECT, WHATEVER PRESIDENTIAL POLICY MAY BE; (C) THAT WE RUN SERIOUS POLITICAL RISK IN EXCESSIVE OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION WITH WERTHEIM'S SUPPOSED "PRIVATE VENTURE"; AND (D) THAT WE OUGHT TO BE MORE DISCREET AND INDEPENDENTLY CRITICAL IN DEALING WITH OPIC ITSELF. RIGHT NOW, DEPT/EMBASSY SERVING AS LITTLE

MORE THAN LETTER BOX AND ERRAND BOYS FOR WHAT I CONSIDER
HIGHLY DEBATABLE OPIC/WERTHEIM POSITIONS.

3. WILL RESERVE MY SUBSTANTIVE VIEWS FOR SEPTTEL AND LTR
TO DESK NEXT POUCH. FOR NOW, I ONLY BESEECH YOUR COOPERATION
IN ENSURING THAT TEAD DOES NOT BECOME NEOCOLONIALIST TAIL
WAGGING U.S. DOG IN RWANDA. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WE DO HAVE
OTHER INTERESTS HERE. WE MIGHT EVEN BE HELPFUL ON SHABA.
CRIGLER

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NNN

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